



U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Information Policy
Suite 11050
1425 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Telephone: (202) 514-3642

April 15, 2019

Alexander Rony
Sierra Club
Dept MR 37536
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-2516
37536-85519945@requests.muckrock.com

Re: DOJ-2017-004276 (AG)
DRH:SBT

Dear Alexander Rony:

While processing your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated for May 10, 2017, for records pertaining to ethics and recusal issues concerning Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the Justice Management Division (JMD) referred eighty-nine pages of material to this Office for processing and direct response to you on behalf of the Office of the Attorney General. For your information, the material was received by this Office on May 19, 2017.

I have determined that three pages are appropriate for release without excision, and copies are enclosed. Additionally eleven pages containing records responsive to your request are being withheld in full pursuant to Exemption 5 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5), which pertains to certain inter- and intra-agency communications protected by the deliberative process privilege. Finally, please be advised that, upon review of the material referred by JMD, we have determined that seventy-five pages are duplicative of the material being withheld in full at this time.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552 (2012 & Supp. V 2017). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison, Douglas Hibbard, for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request at: Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001; telephone at 202-514-3642; or facsimile at 202-514-1009.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601

Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy, United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal at [https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/
action/public/home](https://foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home). Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically submitted within ninety days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,



Douglas R. Hibbard
Chief, Initial Request Staff

Enclosures

ETHICS PLEDGE

As a condition, and in consideration, of my employment in the United States Government in an appointee position invested with the public trust, I commit myself to the following obligations, which I understand are binding on me and are enforceable under law:

1. I will not, within 5 years after the termination of my employment as an appointee in any executive agency in which I am appointed to serve, engage in lobbying activities with respect to that agency.
2. If, upon my departure from the Government, I am covered by the post-employment restrictions on communicating with employees of my former executive agency set forth in section 207(c) of title 18, United States Code, I agree that I will abide by those restrictions.
3. In addition to abiding by the limitations of paragraphs 1 and 2, I also agree, upon leaving Government service, not to engage in lobbying activities with respect to any covered executive branch official or non-career Senior Executive Service appointee for the remainder of the Administration.
4. I will not, at any time after the termination of my employment in the United States Government, engage in any activity on behalf of any foreign government or foreign political party which, were it undertaken on January 20, 2017, would require me to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended.
5. I will not accept gifts from registered lobbyists or lobbying organizations for the duration of my service as an appointee.
6. I will not for a period of 2 years from the date of my appointment participate in any particular matter involving specific parties that is directly and substantially related to my former employer or former clients, including regulations and contracts.
7. If I was a registered lobbyist within the 2 years before the date of my appointment, in addition to abiding by the limitations of paragraph 6, I will not for a period of 2 years after the date of my appointment participate in any particular matter on which I lobbied within the 2 years before the date of my appointment or participate in the specific issue area in which that particular matter falls.
8. I agree that any hiring or other employment decisions I make will be based on the candidate's qualifications, competence, and experience.
9. I acknowledge that the Executive Order entitled "Ethics Commitments by Executive Branch Appointees," issued by the President on January 28, 2017, which I have read before signing this document, defines certain terms applicable to the foregoing obligations and sets forth the methods for enforcing them. I expressly accept the provisions of that Executive Order as a part of this agreement and as binding on me. I understand that the obligations of this pledge are in addition to any statutory or other legal restrictions applicable to me by virtue of Government service.


Signature

2/16/2017
Date

JEFFERSON B. SESSIONS, III
Print or type your full name (last, first, middle)

Lofthus, Lee J (JMD)

From: Hunt, Jody (OAG)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:09 PM
To: Lofthus, Lee J (JMD)
Subject: Re: nominee item

Thank you, Lee.

On Feb 27, 2017, at 1:06 PM, Lofthus, Lee J (JMD) <llofthus@jmd.usdoj.gov> wrote:

OGE sends. OGE has been talking to Comm today re status, so that's good. OGE told us they'd have the pkg up to Committee by end of afternoon.

From: Hunt, Jody (OAG)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:01 AM
To: Lofthus, Lee J (JMD) <llofthus@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: RE: nominee item

Thanks. Just so I understand -- they have to come back to us from OGE before they go up to the Hill? Do we send them up to the Hill?

From: Lofthus, Lee J (JMD)
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:00 AM
To: Hunt, Jody (OAG) <johunt@jmd.usdoj.gov>
Subject: nominee item

Jody, the docs we need are up at OGE for review. Anything I need to sign I can do in 5 mins once OGE clears. We talked to OGE this morning, emphasized we need these to move.

Lofthus, Lee J (JMD)

From: Lofthus, Lee J (JMD)
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 11:57 AM
To: Hunt, Jody (OAG); Bryant, Errical (OAG)
Subject: Scheduling 2 JMD Mtgs Ethics + Travel/Plane/Dining Etc

Jody, Errical – can we pls get on the calendar for two meetings next week with AG for the regular incoming-AG briefings on Aircraft Use/Travel/Rep Fund etc, and then a separate meeting specifically on Ethics. I recommend Jody and Peggi attend both sessions. I think 45 mins on each. Thanks Lee